

Application No. 09/756,140

Art Unit 1755

May 21, 2004

Supplemental Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2-3 were previously canceled. Claims 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 18 and 19 are herein canceled. Thus, claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 17 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments since the amendment has support in originally-filed claims and the present specification.

It is thus respectfully requested that the present Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the Amendment automatically places the application in condition for allowance.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' previous reply of February 18, 2004 fully addresses all issues in the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the claims as herein presented.

Conclusion

A full and complete response has been made to all issues as cited in the Office Action. Applicants have taken substantial steps in efforts to advance prosecution of the present application. Thus,

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Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance issue for the present case.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a two (2) months extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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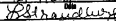
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